

The pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,363,854B1 to Schweitzer. In response to this rejection, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 3. Claim 3 has been cancelled. As amended, claim 1 now recites that the weapons system includes a weapon and time apparatus adapted to disarm the weapon after a selected time has elapsed further including means for shortening or extending the selected time either before or after the selected time has elapsed. As will be discussed in detail below, it is submitted that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Schweitzer.

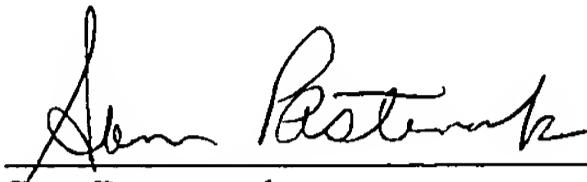
Schweitzer discloses a mine alterable from an armed state to a safe state. Figure 11 is relevant to the present discussion. As set out in the specification and shown in Figure 11, in one mode a timer 100 can open the switch 94 to disarm the mine after a predetermined time. In addition, a signal can be sent from a transmitter 102 to a receiver 90. The received signal is decoded by a decoder 92 and can activate the switch 94 to disable the mine. Thus, the Schweitzer patent teaches two modes of operation. First, the mine can be disabled after a “predetermined time” by a timer. Alternatively, the mine can be disabled upon receipt of a signal from a transmitter.

As set forth in amended claim 1 herein, means are provided for shortening or extending the selected disablement time and such shortening or extending may be achieved either before or after the selected time has elapsed. There is nothing in Schweitzer that would teach or suggest this mode of operation. In Schweitzer, there is disclosed no technique whatsoever for altering the time in the timer 100. That is to say, if the timer were set for one year, there is no disclosed teaching for reducing the time, for example, to six months or, alternatively, extending the time to, for example, two years. Schweitzer merely teaches that a predetermined time can be set. Therefore, the limitation now in claim 1 relating to “means for shortening or extending the selected time, either before or after the selected time has elapsed” is lacking in Schweitzer. It is submitted that claim 1 as amended herein is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Schweitzer. Reconsideration is requested.

It is noted that the examiner has cited, but not relied upon, U.S. Patent No. 6,112,668 to Woodall, et. al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,711,179 to Sundberg, et. al. A review of these patents indicates that they do not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that remaining claims 1, 2 and 4 are free of the prior art and are in condition for allowance. Early favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES**

Claim 1 (Amended) Weapons system comprising:

Weapons systems; and

Time apparatus adapted to disarm the weapon after a selected time has elapsed further including means for shortening or extending the selected time, either before or after the selected time has elapsed.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)